




## ERASMUSDAYS INTERNATIONAL EVENT 16 October 2020

*Sport as a tool for social inclusion in critical areas of the planet is possible, indeed desirable. But it requires networking skills among organisations, bureaucratic knots to untie with regard to funding, and sustainability in being able to give a project continuity over time. As well as a series of not strictly technical skills to be possessed by coaches and sports operators working in critical contexts. This is what emerges from the project's first research activities. and was presented in the international seminar "Making integration through sport"*

The first results of the SIMCAS project have been presented on 16 October 2020 during a relevant international seminar 'Making integration through sport', organized by US Acli, University of Cassino and Iref with the participation of all project partners (Girl Power Organization, Champions Without Borders, Organisation Earth, Sports Union of Slovenia, The Sports Council of Pla de l'Estany).



The seminar has been included in the programs of #Erasmusdays and Waiting for Researchers' Night 2020 "MEETmeTONIGHT".

"Making integration through sport", has been transmitted live via streaming and has been attended by around 250 people. These included students from the University of Cassino, European professionals and researchers in the field of sport-based social intervention.

The event has been organised in two main sessions: during the first, IREF staff briefly presented the results of two research studies, a literature review on the capacity of sport to overcome the social exclusion of migrants in critical areas and a qualitative analysis of interviews with experts; the second included a round table discussion on the most pressing issues of sport-based social interventions in the current context

The proceedings have been opened by US Acli President Damiano Lembo. The meeting, coordinated by Simone Digennaro from the University of Cassino, has been attended by the speakers Cristiano Caltabiano, Luca Proietti and Michele Proietti from Iref, and by two experts: Thomas Farines, trainer and educator, consultant for Terre des Hommes in Greece and David Ekholm, Senior Lecturer, Department of Culture and Society, Norrköping University, Sweden.

"We have to keep in mind the context," explains Cristiano Caltabiano, SIMCAS Research Coordinator, "because in Europe in the last ten years the migration issue has become very controversial compared to the past, but we also need shared networking with other associations that are strongly motivated to integrate migrants into society. The predominant role of the coach, as a key figure, also emerged. He is the real link: we need skills in managing group dynamics in multi-segregating and problematic contexts such as a prison or a refugee camp'. 'Sport,' Caltabiano concludes, 'is too often seen as a panacea against society's ills, but the qualitative leap is to make it effective in generating integration processes that require time and energy'

